



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating Canadian stories at the 9th Annual Telling Tales Festival

HAMILTON, ON – September 19, 2017: It was buzzing at the Telling Tales Festival on Sunday, September 17 where over 6,000 guests joined 30 award-winning Canadian authors, illustrators, storytellers, and musicians for a fun day in the autumn sun.

Emma Donoghue charmed audiences with her first children's book *The Lottery's Plus One*. **Erin Bow** talked to tweens and teens about her hit books *The Scorpion Rules* and *The Swan Riders* while **Kevin Sylvester** dazzled guests with his artistic style and engaging book readings. **Ted Staunton** entertained kids with his banjo and his new books *Harry and Clare's Amazing Staycation* and *Bounced*. Storyteller **Itah Sadu** shared her captivating stories that celebrate multiculturalism and introduced us to her new book *Greetings, Leroy*.

Guests were a flutter hearing new stories for the first time. Telling Tales was excited to launch several new books including: *Canada 123* by **Paul Covello**, *Stolen Words* by **Melanie Florence**, *Goodnight, Hockey Fans* by **Andrew Larsen**, and *A Bedtime Yarn* by **Nicola Winstanley**. Plus Telling Tales was the first time the world has seen and heard *Basketballogy* from **Kevin Sylvester** – his new book will not be in bookstores until October!

To see a complete list of all the presenters and their books, which are featured in the Telling Tales Reading List, please visit the Telling Tales website at www.tellingtales.org.

The vision of Telling Tales is to inspire a love of reading among children and youth. At the festival children experienced stories coming to life. They spoke with storybook characters, danced to musical tales, expressed themselves through drama, discovered how authors write books, learned drawing tips from illustrators, and heard dramatic tales from storytellers.

"It was a magical day for inspiration, literacy and quality family time," says Susan Jasper, Telling Tales Executive Director. "We are grateful that both school boards and our transportation partners continue to help us to bring nearly 1,000 guests from high priority neighbourhoods. These special guests receive free lunches and books. It's so rewarding to see children's faces light up when they meet an author in person and get their autograph. Kids also love exchanging books at the Book Swap & Shop. Almost 6,000 books were exchanged, allowing families to add "new" books to their home library."

www.tellingtales.org | facebook.com/TellingTalesFestival | twitter.com/tellingtalesffs





The Telling Tales Festival is the signature event of Telling Tales, and we are excited to continue our commitment to literacy by offering programming throughout the year. Follow us to learn how you can participate in one of these upcoming Telling Tales Programs:

Telling Tales School Contest: Teachers and classes can win an author visit to their school as part of the Telling Tales School Contest.

Telling Tales Storytelling Workshop: On November 3, kids can discover their own storytelling powers at our new creative workshop that focuses on telling stories through writing, illustration, drama, and music.

Kids' Lit Quiz 2018 Hamilton Heat: On January 24, 2018 schools can challenge the Telling Tales All Star Author Team for a chance to win a Telling Tales author visit for their school.

About Telling Tales

Telling Tales is a Canadian, not-for-profit organization committed to delivering outstanding literary programming for children and youth that raises awareness of the importance of literacy in our communities. For more information, please review the [Telling Tales Fact Sheet](#) and visit the Telling Tales website at tellingtales.org.

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Author Emma Donoghue presented her first children's book at the Telling Tales Festival and gave guests insight into writing her first children's book *The Lottery's Plus One*.

Photo by Alyssa Lai



Author Andrew Larsen launched his latest book *Goodnight, Hockey Fans* at the Telling Tales Festival. He shared his own hockey stories with guests and read from the book.

Photo by Alyssa Lai



Children of all ages enjoyed reading stories at the Telling Tales Festival. Over 6,000 books were exchanged at the Book Swap and Shop.

Photo by Tim Bermingham



Children always love meeting storybook characters at the Telling Tales Festival! Anne Shirley read a story with a young fan.

Photo by Lisa Hunter